THE CLAIMS

It is claimed:

1. 1.   A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system, the
2. computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer operable to output
3. an electrical signal to the speaker, the speaker operable to convert the electrical signal
4. into a stimulus, the computer system having a volume control that controls the
5. amplitude of the electrical signal, the method comprising:
6.   a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;
7.   b) executing the computer program on the computer, the execution of the
8.   computer program setting the volume control;
9.   c) generating a stimulus; and
10.   d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether or not the user
11.   heard the stimulus.

1. 2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer program
2. includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via the
3. Internet.

1. 3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer program
2. includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via an
3. email.

1. 4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program
2. includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from
3. a single audio source.

1. 5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program
2. includes setting a volume control that controls the channel balance between electrical
3. signals from a single audio source.

1. 6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program
2. includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from
3. a Wave source.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program

2   includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from

3   a stream of digital audio data generated by the computer program.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program

2   includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from

3   a plurality of audio sources.

1   9.   The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program

2   includes setting a volume control that controls the channel balance of electrical

3   signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1   10.   The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program

2   includes setting a first volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals

3   from a single audio source and setting a second volume control that controls the

4   amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1   11.   The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program

2   includes setting a first volume control that controls the channel balance of electrical

3   signals from a single audio source and setting a second volume control that controls

4   the channel balance of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1   12.   The method of claim 1, further including:

2   a) sending first data to the server;

3   b) qualifying the hearing of the user; and

4   c) sending second data to the computer.

1   13.   A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system, the

2   computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer operable to output

3   an electrical signal to the speaker, the speaker operable to convert the electrical signal

4   into a stimulus, the computer system having a volume control that controls the

5   amplitude of the electrical signal, the method comprising:

6   a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;

7 b) executing the computer program on the computer, the execution of the

8 computer program storing a value of the volume control and setting the

9 volume control;

10 c) generating a stimulus;

11 d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether or not the user

12 heard the stimulus; and

13 e) resetting the volume control to the stored values.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the act of downloading the computer

2 program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer

3 via the Internet.

1 15. The method of claim 13, wherein the act of downloading the computer

2 program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer

3 via an email.

1 16. The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program

2 includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical

3 signals from a single audio source and setting a volume control that controls the

4 amplitude of electrical signals from a single audio source.

1 17. The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program

2 includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical

3 signals from a Wave audio source and setting a volume control that controls the

4 amplitude of electrical signals from a Wave audio source.

1 18. The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program

2 includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical

3 signals from a Wave audio source and setting a volume control that controls the

4 amplitude of electrical signals from a stream of digital audio data that was generated

5 within the computer program.

1 19. The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program

2 includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical

3   signals from a plurality of audio sources and setting a volume control that controls the

4   amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1   20.   The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program

2   includes storing the value of a first volume control that controls the amplitude of

3   electrical signals from a single audio source, storing the value of a second volume

4   control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio

5   sources, setting a first volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals

6   from a single audio source, and setting a second volume control that controls the

7   amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1   21.   The method of claim 13, further including:

2   a)   sending first data to the server;

3   b)   qualifying the hearing of the user; and

4   c)   sending second data to the computer.

1   22.   A program storage device that contains computer readable instructions that,

2   when executed by a computer system having a volume control, tests the hearing of a

3   user by:

4   a)   setting the volume control of the computer;

5   b)   generating a stimulus; and

6   c)   receiving an input from the user that indicates that the user heard the

7   stimulus.

1   23.   The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of setting the volume

2   control includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical

3   signals from a Wave audio source.

1   24.   The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of setting the volume

2   control includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical

3   signals from a stream of digital audio data generated within the computer program.

1 25. The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of setting the volume
2 control includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical
3 signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1 26. The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of setting the volume
2 control includes setting a first volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical
3 signals from a single audio source and setting a second volume control that controls
4 the amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1 27. A program storage device that contains computer readable instructions that,
2 when executed by a computer system having a volume control, tests the hearing of a
3 user by:
4   a) storing the value of the volume control
5   b) setting the volume control;
6   c) generating a stimulus;
7   d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether or not the user
8   heard the stimulus; and
9   e) resetting the volume control to the stored value.

1 28. The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing the value
2 of the volume control includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the
3 amplitude of electrical signals from a single audio source.

1 29. The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing the value
2 of the volume control includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the
3 amplitude of electrical signals from a Wave audio source.

1 30. The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing the value
2 of the volume control includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the
3 amplitude of electrical signals from a stream of digital audio data generated within the
4 computer program.

1   31.   The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing the value

2   of the volume control includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the

3   amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1   32.   The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing the value

2   of the volume control includes storing the value of a first volume control that controls

3   the amplitude of electrical signals from a single audio source and storing the value of

4   a second volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a

5   plurality of audio sources.